

MARY HEADRICK: Thank you, Willow. I left the written remarks here. I'm Dr. Mary Headrick, a physician of internal medicine. I live in Union County, due north of here. And I thank you for the opportunity to speak. For the health of our current and future citizens, I urge you to stop leasing our public lands for coal. I added a comment because I must rebut Representative Rowe's comments as a fellow physician. Coal is a health hazard, and that is scientifically proven. And I have to insert here: Is any job worth the illness or slow death of our children? Now, to go back to my prepared remarks, there are health hazards for people who live or work near a coal extraction site that include toxic pollutants in air and water, such as selenium, benzene, mercury, arsenic, but more widespread than these and affecting many more lives are the health hazards of actually burning coal. Public land coal accounts for forty percent of all coal, and leasing public lands for coal extraction encourages coal burning at a time when the dangers of burning coal are well known, and we should stop burning coal. As Washington, D.C. and other cities get a grade of F on air quality from the National Lung Association, it is urgent that we eliminate the use of public lands for coal extraction. Consider our air safety. Burning coal pollutes our air. (Inaudible) surface ozone through the nitrogen oxide pathways. Burning releases black carbon, fine particulate matter. The culprit was asthma, less than 2.5 microns and other toxins. Lung disease from ozone fine particulate matter. Black carbon manifests as asthma, COPD. And childhood asthma is at an all-time high and the death rate from this is also at a high. The elevated lung cancer deaths went to coal's fine particulate matter, and high (Inaudible) are well documented and proven. To give you the statistic, each increase of 30 micrograms per cubic meter of fine particulates can increase the risk of death, all causes, by three percent, increases of death of heart disease by ten percent, increase of death of respiratory disease by twenty-seven percent. And then in addition to the air quality, consider our planet. Burning coal from public lands accounts for thirteen percent of our nation's greenhouse gas emissions. And greenhouse gas emissions lead to extreme weather events, such as drowning in floods, extreme heat deaths, or infections from warm weather vectors like ticks, mosquitoes. Coal is harmful to our planet. For the health of us and our children, I respectfully ask that the BLM stop leasing our public land for coal extraction. Let the coal stay put and make diamonds. Thank you very much. For the health of us and our children, I respectfully ask that the BLM stop leasing our public land for coal extraction. Let the coal stay put and make diamonds. Thank you very much.